NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

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OBSERVATIONS

On the most economical method, by which farmers in this country, may supply themselves with a sufficient supply of succulent feed, for their stock in the winter season.

[By LEVI MCKEAN, of Dutchess.]

There is nothing in which I consider the American farmer to be so far behind the best European cultivator, as in the suitable provision of green or succulent food, for his stock in winter. It is to this deficiency, that we must ascribe the loss that we so often hear farmers complain of, when they have attempted to make calculations on the expense of fattening of beef and mutton, in the winter, on artificial feed: or, the expense of keeping dairies, from November to May, all of which time cows should have some rich feed, other than dry hay, or they cannot afford any profit to the farmer.

For my part, I have long ago learnt from experience, that to fatten beef or mutton; or keep a dairy; or to keep ewes to rear lambs for the market, on corn, or other farinaceous feed, without green or succulent food, must always disappoint the hopes of every farmer, who will take the trouble to count the cost of any experiment he may make in that way; and unless the farmers of this country, can succeed in finding some green article or root, to feed with his hay and corn, he can never make a calculation of profit on his winter's feeding.

This subject has long occupied the attention of all those farmers, who calculate the cost of the article they send to market, and has led them, with much solicitude, to endeavor to find some article to cultivate for this purpose, without any one, as I believe, having yet been able to come to any practical conclusion, as to what article was best adapted to our climate and soil, or whether any article can be found to answer the purpose.

Without system, no business can succeed, and a systematic farmer should always calculate on results, that would prove as certain as possible, especially in this country, where, if he fails in the growth of a crop of the article on which he has made his principal dependence, for his winter feed, he cannot supply the lack by purchase, without giving so extravagant a price, that his stock will hardly, in the spring, pay for the wintering: or he must force his stock into market, lean, in the fall, when for the want of regular fairs for the sale of stock, which we much want in this country, he must generally sell at such prices as to sacrifice his summer's feeding.

The above considerations, have rested on my mind with such weight, that for several years I have been led to make experiments to supply myself with the necessary store of feed, none of which have been satisfactory, either by reason of the great labor that most of the artificial crops require, at seasons when all the labor of the country is necessarily otherwise engaged; or by reason of the uncertainty of the crop experimented; or its unfitness, when produced, for feed in this climate.

Every man who has read English books on husbandry, is at first struck with the important use they make of their turnip crops in that country, and eagerly engages in the cultivation of an article, the general growth of which has formed an important era in the annals of agriculture in that country. But alas, how often has the American farmer been disappointed in the result of such experiments as have been most judiciously made, by reason of the difference of soil and climate.

The season of sowing field turnips *for stock*, in this climate, should be from the 10th to the 15th of July, which is in the very midst of our harvest, and is a very hurrying season, when labor, is not only very high, but difficult to be obtained. But notwithstanding these difficulties, I some years ago fallowed a good field of about eight acres, and sowed it with the different kinds of turnip seed that are now most approved of in England, all of which came up well, and progressed with great promise, until the roots were of the size of a walnut, when the grasshoppers went into my turnips, and entirely eat them up.

The next year I did not sow any, but in the year 1817, I sowed a very large field, that did well as to growth, but when it became fall, they had to be drawn and housed, or put in *pie*, which was a great labor; and in the winter, when they were to be fed to my sheep, they were to be unhoused, cut and fed in troughs: and long before spring, when they were most wanted, they became porous and light, and in fact, were a very expensive feed for my sheep, in proportion to their value as an article of food. From which I then concluded, that even when the common turnip grows well, they are not a profitable article for feeding, unless we could feed them on the ground, as is the practice in England; but which, from the severity of our winters, we cannot do. I have since several times tried the common turnip, but without profit, or any other satisfaction than was derived from the above experiments.

I have also, for the last four years, raised the *ruta baga* with some success, and have used them as a feed for every description of stock, with considerable satisfaction, especially after mid-winter, before which time, they do not appear to be properly ripened for use. But there is a great deal of labor about this crop, that must also be done in a very hurrying season of the year. That the result of all my experiments have convinced me, that in this country, where every thing is so dissimilar from that of England, that no English theory will do for the American farmer.

In England, the chief expense of the farmer's crop, consists in tythes, direct and assessed taxes and rent. The cost of labour is nominal, in comparison with what it is in this country. While here, thank GOD, there is no tythe, the rent is small, and the taxes are nominal; and labor is every thing. Therefore, in England, it becomes the interest of the farmer to use every means in his power, to obtain the greatest possible products from a given quantity of land, by laying out much labor on it. But in this country, it is the interest of the farmer, so to husband his land, that he ensure the greatest possible returns for his labor. On this ground of calculation, I have finally concluded, after this year, (in which I have laid out considerable, on preparation for turnips, that owing to drought, have entirely failed,) to give up my turnip and potatoe crops; for all the objections that lie against the one, are equally applicable to the other, excepting that the potatoe is the best feed, when produced, but the expense of producing a crop of potatoes is very great. And while I have come to this conclusion, I must confess I have been at a loss to find a crop to substitute for them.

It has so happened, that whenever I have resided in cities, it has been as a boarder, and not as an housekeeper; and although I had often seen the *Jerusalem Artichoke*, (*Helianthus Tuberosus*,) in markets, I had never eaten them, or known any thing of the manner by which they were produced: and in fact, I had never given any attention to the article, until the last spring, when, being in a neighbor's house, I observed a child to come in with a present of a basket of artichokes, which I noticed were of a size and form similar to the sweet potatoe of the southern states. But still I made no enquiry about them at this time; but after I returned to my own house, I recollected the basket of artichokes, and determined to enquire where and how they grew, and what use was made of them? when I learnt, that they were grown in a garden in this village, (Poughkeepsie,) and that they were a very hardy and productive vegetable. I also learnt, that when once planted, they required no further cultivation, and that they had no enemies during their growth but hogs, who were very fond of them. This was very satifactory information, as I am well persuaded, there are no animals that pursue nutritious food with more attention to its fitness to support animal life, than hogs: and I concluded at once, that this root *might be useful to the farmers of this country, as a substitute for potatoes and turnips.*

On the above information, I went to examine the garden where this article had grown, and found, that a small spot of ground, not exceeding 20 by 3 feet, must have produced several bushels of artichokes, which I soon persuaded myself must be profitable as a crop, and was determined to procure some of the seed: and in the mean time, I endeavored to collect all the information of the growth and produce of artichokes in my power.

It is proper to observe, that an English book on agriculture, can never be read with any certainty, as to the results of any experments which they pretend to detail; as their most experienced writers do not describe any certain quantity, either of land or products, by any certain denomination of measure; and although some of their writers pretend to understand something about a *statute acre*, while describing the results of their experiments, and speak of their products as being measured in the Winchester bushel, yet in the next page, or perhaps in the next paragraph, you will find them speaking of acres of seven yards to the perch, and other measures

that no one can comprehend; and of estimating their crops of esculent and tuberous roots, sometimes as being measured by the *Winchester bushel*, and in other instances estimating them *ninety pounds to the bushel;* and at other times they are measured by *barrels* or *loads*, the size of which no one can conjecture. Therefore, in our inquiries, we cannot say with certainty, what capacity of measure is meant by those who relate the results of experiments, that have been made in that country, either as to the ground occupied, or the crop produced. Therefore, in order to come to any satisfactory result, in my inquiries relative to the comparative value of artichokes, as a crop, I have concluded that the land planted with potatoes, (with which I shall compare this crop,) must have been measured with the same instrument that the acre was, which was planted with artichokes; and that the same measure was used, to ascertain the quantity of each crop.

Mr. Peters published his book entitled "*Winter Riches*," as long ago as 1772, in which he speaks in very high terms of artichokes, as a crop to feed all kinds of stock on; and expresses his astonishment, that they are not more grown, and that they are held in such low esteem, even for human sustenance.

He asserts, that he has raised from one acre of land, from 70 to 80 tons; and that he is of opinion, that 396 tons may be raised from seven acres; from which it will appear, that if Mr. Peters had only 70 tons, he must have had 2,413 bushels of artichokes, at 65 pounds to the bushel, (which is the most that a bushel of the best potatoes can be made to weigh;) but if he had 80 tons, then his acre of artichokes produced him the prodigious quantity of 2,755 bushels, of the same weight.

From the above example, it will be seen, that Mr. Peters did not exceed probability, in expecting 396 tons from seven acres, when planted for an ordinary crop, which would be 13,646 bushels of artichokes.

Another English writer estimates an ordinary crop of artichokes to be equal to 480 Winchester bushels per acre, when planted, without the expense of manure. He also considers this crop to possess great merit, from *its certainty upon any soil*, and its *not requiring manure*, and *being proof against frost.*

I shall now endeavor to compare this crop, as to its value, with potatoes.

Arthur Young has given us several courses of experiments, made by himself, on a good soil, with different sorts of potatoes, one of which produced 120 bushels, without manure, and the rest, that were highly manured, with different sorts of dressing, and at great expense, produced from 140 to 650 bushels to the acre. Those producing the least crop, were manured with 30 loads of yard compost, and those producing the most, were two lots which yielded exactly alike, one parcel being manured with 6 loads of night soil, and the other with 10 loads of bones. And in another course of experiments, probably made the next year, on the same ground, with the same sorts of potatoes, and the same kinds and quantity of manure; he obtained, without manure, 140 bushels; with the yard compost, 140 bushels; from the night soil, 500 bushels; and from the bone manure, 640. And two other experiments, in different parts of England, have given results from the same kind of soil; one acre, without manure, 180 bushels; one acre, 240 bushels, manured with wood ashes, which was the smallest crop with manure; and the largest crop, manured with 53 loads of farm yard dung, was 400 bushels.

The above experiments, having been made by the best farmers in England, or perhaps in the world, it will be observed, that the above products in artichokes, may be compared with them, to very great advantage.

Therefore, having obtained the above intelligence, I sent to Grant Thorburn for a bushel of artichokes, for seed, in order to make an experiment of their growth in this country. He sent me a peck, saying that he had only sent that quantity, as he did not know that I should approve of the price, which was $5 per bushel. This seed I received the 6th of May, and immediately proceeded to plant it, on a soil in moderate tilth for wheat.

This peck of seed, I cut as small as was proper, in order to make it go as far as possible in planting. And while I was superintending the planting of this seed, the boy, who assisted me, observed, that there were some *artichokes* growing on a certain place on my farm, which, when examined, I found to be true, for I found a poor exposed space of ground (not larger than a common breakfast table) covered with artichokes, from which I dug about five pecks of fine large tubes, which, notwithstanding the tops were grown more than a foot high, I planted with the others. And although they were planted quite too late, I proposed, on some future occasion, to publish the result of this experiment. At this time, they looked very fine, and the ground now appears to be full of large roots.

My present opinion, from all I have seen and heard of artichokes, is, that they are the best suited for cultivation, in this climate, as a crop for hogs, sheep, and dairies, of any article that we have yet tried.

Since last spring, I have examined several where they are growing wild, and find that they every where yield a bountiful increase, more than could possibly be expected from potatoes or turnips, or any other article growing on the same soil, and under the same circumstances, and every where indicate, that if cultivated and manured in the same manner that other crops are, the article would maintain the same superiority it does in a state of nature.

I have found artichokes growing in hedge rows, and among shrubbery in the borders of gardens, to very great perfection, where they were perfectly shaded, and apparently overrun with shrubs and weeds, and yet, on examining the roots, they were abundant, and larger than common potatoes, from which I concluded, they would even grow to some perfection in woodlands, where the soil was soft and mulchy.

As to the best method of culture, I cannot say much, as I have no experience, and can only speak from the conclusion I have drawn from observing the natural habits of the plant: from which I would, however, venture to recommend the following course of cultivation, which may be tried on any kind of soil, with great certainty of a good return, in proportion to the quality of the soil, or its improvements. But to obtain the best return, I would choose a field of a size proportioned to the amount of green food I might want for my winter's feeding, and of a pretty good soil. If otherwise convenient, take up some orchard ground, on account of the benefit that I am persuaded this crop would be to the trees.

The ground should be ploughed and manured, and then drilled in the manner that is usually done for potatoes, and about the same quantity of seed planted, at the same distance in the rows. In the fall, the farmer should take up such a portion of the tubes as he would probably want for his winter feeding, which will be done cheapest with the plough. The remainder of his crop may be left, to be taken up early in the spring, as there is no way in which they can be so well preserved as to let them remain in the ground during the winter.

The tubes that are taken up in the fall, should be housed in the same manner that potatoes usually are, altho they are not so liable to injury by frost, as either potatoes or the ruta baga.

The next spring, when all the crop has been taken off the land, the ground should be well and deeply ploughed, as early as possible, which is all the cultivation that will again be wanting to secure the most adundant crop. And when the ground is to be appropriated to some other course of crops, it will only be necessary to turn a sufficient number of hogs into the lot, and they will entirely eradicate the artichokes, which cannot otherwise be accomplished.

Besides the use of this crop for stock, which the abovementioned authors consider to be equal to potatoes, they are also recommended highly as an article of human diet. It is true that when boiled, they do not possess that peculiar farinaceous quality, that is so much esteemed in the best sorts of potatoes; but it is said when roasted, they are a very delicate article for the table: their taste then very much resembling the ground nut of this country.

And from all my information in relation to this plant, I am persuaded that if every poor family in Ireland, and elsewhere, could devote one quarter of an acre of land to this article, they would at least be saved from famine for seven months in the year.

I submit the above observation, to the consideration of the enlightened members of the Agricultural Society, with my recommendation, that they will at least make an experiment, on a small portion of medium good soil, such as they usually devote to their potatoe crop: and I promise myself the satisfaction to see this crop generally raised throughout the country, as a cheap, certain, and profitable substitute, both for potatoes and turnips, where the object is the feeding of stock from November to May: by which, the farmer will be able to bring his ewes and lambs into his pastures in good health and condition, instead of the miserable plight in which they are now seen during the early spring months.

The dairy farmer will also, by the cultivation of this article, instead of seeing his cows shrunk and dried up in winter, receive a rich supply of milk at that season, when it is most valuable; and when his cows calve, he will have the means of fattening the calves, by which he will be saved both the loss and the shame of carrying lean veal to the market, to be sold for little more than the skin is worth. And he will find an article, on which to feed his teams, by which he will at least save one half of the dry short provender that farmers are now obliged to feed, and by which the health of his teams will be much

improved; and on the whole, I am persuaded, that by the cultivation of this productive vegetable, the economical farmer will be grealy enriched. If all the above benefits are not realized, I shall be much disappointed, as my reliance on this crop is so great, that I intend, the ensuing season, to plant all the seed I can possibly procure, at a reasonable expense.

DESCRIPTION OF A MOULD-BOARD,

Extracted from a letter, dated March 23, 1798, from Mr. Jefferson, to Sir John Sinclair, President of the Board of Agriculture at London, printed in the 4th volume of the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

In a former letter to you, I mentioned the construction of the mould-board of a plough which had occurred to me, as advantageous in its form, as certain and invariable in the method of obtaining it with precision. I remember that Mr. Strickland of York, a member of your board, was so well satisfied with the principles on which it was formed, that he took some drawings of it, and some others have considered it with the same approbation. An experience of five years has enabled me to say, it answers, in practice, to what it promises in theory. The mould-board should be a continuation of the wing of the ploughshare, beginning at its hinder edge, and in the same plane. Its office is to receive the sod horizontally from the wing, to raise it to a proper height for being turned over, and to make, in its progress, the least resistance possible; and, consequently, to require a minimum in the moving power. Were this its only office, the wedge would offer itself as the most eligible form in practice.* But the sod is to be turned over also. To do this, the one edge of it is not to be raised at all; for to raise this would be a waste of labor. The other edge is to be raised till it passes the perpendicular, that it may fall over with its own weight. And that this may be done, so as to give also the least resistance, it must be made to rise gradually from the moment the sod is received. The mould-board then, in this second office, operates as a transverse, or rising wedge, the point of which sliding back horizontally on the ground, the other end continues rising till it passes the perpendicular. Or to vary the point of view, place on the ground a wedge of the breadth of the ploughshare, of its length from the wing backwards, and as high at the heel as it is wide. Draw a diagonal line on its upper face, from the left angle, at the point, to the right upper angle of the heel. Bevil the face from the diagonal to the right bottom edge, which lies on the ground. That half is then evidently in the best form, for performing the two offices of raising and turning the sod gradually and with the least effort; and if you will suppose the same bevil continued across the left side of the diagonal, that is, if you will suppose a straight line, whose length is at least equal to the breadth of the wedge, applied on the face of the first bevil, and moved backwards on its parallel, with itself and with the ends of the wedge, the lower end of the line, moving along the right bottom-edge, a curved plane will be generated, whose characteristic will be, a combination of the principle of the wedge in cross directions, and will give us what we seek, the cross board of least resistance. It offers too this great advantage, that it may be made by the coarsest workman, by a process so exact, that its form shall never be varied a single hair's breadth. One fault of all other mould-boards is, that, being copied by the eye, no two will be alike. In truth, it is easier to form the mould-board I speak of with precision, when the method has been once seen, than to describe that method either by words or figures.

*I am aware, that were the turf to be raised to a given height, in a given length of mould-board, and not to be turned over, the form of least resistance would not be rigorously a wedge with both faces straight, but with the upper one curved, according to the laws of the solid of least resistance described by the mathematicians. But the difference between the effect of the curved and of the plain wedge, in the case of a mould-board, is so minute, and the difficulty in the execution which the former would superinduce on common workmen, is so great, that the plain wedge is the most eligible to be assumed in practice of the first element of our construction.

ANALYSIS OF SOILS.

"In cases when the general nature of the soil of a field is to be ascertained, specimens of it should be taken from different places, two or three inches below the surface, and examined as to the similarity of their properties. It sometimes happens, that upon plains the whole of the upper stratum of the land is of the same kind, and in this case, one analysis will be sufficient; but in vallies, and near the beds of rivers, there are very great differences, and it now and then occurs that one part of a field is calcareous, and another part siliceous; and in this case, and in analogous cases, the portions different from each other should be separately submitted to experiment.

"Soils when collected, if they cannot be immediately examined, should be preserved in phials quite filled with them, and closed with ground glass stoppers.

"The quantity of soil most convenient for a perfect analysis, is from two to four hundred grains. It should be collected in dry weather, and exposed to the atmosphere till it becomes dry to the touch.

"The specific gravity of a soil, or the relation of its weight to that of water, may be ascertained by introducing into a phial, which will contain a known quantity of water, equal volumes of water and of soil, and this may be easily done by pouring in water till it is half full, and then adding the soil till the fluid rises to the mouth; the difference between the weight of the soil and that of the water will give the result. Thus if the bottle contains 400 grains of water, and gains 200 grains when half filled with water and half with soil, the specific gravity of the soil will be 2, that is, it will be twice as heavy as water, and if it gained 165 grains, its specific gravity would be 1825, water being 1000.

"It is of importance, that the specific gravity of a soil should be known, as it affords an indication of the quantity of animal and vegetable matter it contains; these substances begin always most abundant in the lighter soils."

DAVY.

To purify the muddy water of rivers or pits.

Make a number of holes in the bottom of a deep tub; lay some clean gravel thereon, and above this some clean sand; sink this tub in the river or pit, so that only a few inches of the tub will be above the surface of the water; the river or pit water will filter through the sand, and rise clear through it to the level of the water on the outside, and will be pure and limpid.

Recent experiments have shewn that tiles are greatly improved, and rendered impervious to water and frost, by being rubbed over with tar before they are laid on the roof.

THE REAL HYSON TEA PLANT,

Introduced into the United States, and now cultivated in North Carolina.

A B——n, an old traveller in the Indies, and at present an inhabitant of Moore county, N. C. is well acquainted with the growth and cultivation of the above tea plant in foreign as well as this country, and also with the mode and manner of curing its leaves; and gives to the public the following communication respecting it:

As soon as the leaves arrive to maturity they should be gathered in the morning, while the dew is upon them, after three or four days of good sunshine weather in succession previous to gathering, and clear from any rain falling in the interim to wet them: then dry up the dew on them as early as you can in the shade, (say in a room where there is as little wind or air stirring as possible,) after which, put the leaves into a stone jar or jars, with as small mouths as can be had, so as to preclude the steam from getting out, or the air or water within, by tying cloths over them, and putting on plates or small waiters, with weight thereon: then set the jar or jars into a large pot or kettle, with water up to their necks, and by no means let any get into their mouths: boil it slowly, until the leaves are completely wilted: take the jar or jars out and set them away, with their covers securely on, until they and their contents are perfectly cool: take out the leaves, with their liquid substance (if any,) and put the whole together in equal quantities, into large dishes, to dry in the shade as before recited (say on tables in a room as clear of wind or air as possible,) often stirring the leaves, that they may absorb the liquid (if any) and dry with expedition: when thoroughly done, should be immediately canistered up, and is then fit for use.

The writer of this article has, for some years past, successfully cultivated and cured in this country the above plant from seed which he himself obtained from the East Indies; and there is not the least doubt but that it will prosper and do well in any part of the United States, as the seed which falls from the plant or otherwise will stand the winter of this climate, and come up in the spring; but the most advisable way is to gather the seed in the fall, and sow them in the spring, in small drills, of good fine earth, about two feet wide; from which you can draw out in a wet season, and transplant as other plants, as soon as three leaves appear on the plant, leaving and depositing them about eight inches apart, and cultivating them with a hoe, as you would cotton or indigo, which had better be done in the evening, when the heat of the day is over. Three gatherings may be had in a season—the first is the best.

A wisp of straw should be placed in the bottom of the pot or kettle, to set the jars on, when boiled.

From the Massachusetts Agricultural Repository.

ON RAISING THE OAK FROM THE ACORN, AND THE BEST MODE OF DOING IT.

[BY THE EDITORS.]

It is very extraordinary, that, notwithstanding the Massachusetts Agricultural Society has for thirty years offered great premiums for the culture of the oak in plantations, and especially since the legislature enjoined it upon the several agricultural societes throughout the state to offer premiums for the raising of forest trees, but two claims should have been made. We can only account for it on one of the following grounds, either that the premium has not attracted the attention of our farmers, or that they have not sufficient spirit and enterprise, or that they are averse from any new culture, however important and reasonable. We shall take the article of White Oaks, which were selected by our society, as being the most valuable timber of the Northern States.

The premium offered in 1822, for one acre planted with white oaks, and found to be in the best state in September 1823, (that is at eighteen months old,) was 100 dollars per acre. The expense of raising seedlings of eighteen months old would not exceed twenty dollars more, if the following account be correct; indeed we believe it would not exceed ten dollars, as we can see no reason why the expense of planting an acre of acorns should exceed the expense of planting an acre of corn. There would be left then of clear profit to the raiser of an acre of oaks a profit of sixty dollars at least for two years culture, and as is remarked in the following article, a crop of grain may be raised at the same time sufficient to pay the whole expense. Have we no man in the state who is spirited enough to set the example, and carry away the honor and profit? The acre of oaks will *afterwards be his*, and there is no mode in which he could employ his land to so great advantage. It will not surely be said, that our farmers *cannot spare any of their land*, when our great error consists in holding more than we can, or do cultivate *well*.

On the mode of raising the Oak "from Hunter's Notes on Evelyn's Sylva."

"Having the ground properly prepared, (by breaking it up and reducing it to a fine tilth, either by potatoes or repeated ploughings) and having a sufficient quantity of acorns, all gathered from the most vigorous, healthy, and thriving trees, proceed to the setting them in the following manner. In the month of February or March [but in this country we say *from experience*, the months of November or December if the latter month be open,] let lines be drawn across the ground for the rows, at the distance of four feet from each other; but if this be thought too great an interval, the rows may be made three feet, in which case the acorns must be put down at a greater distance from each other. Then having sticks properly rounded to make the holes, (a common dibble) plant the acorns in the rows at ten inches asunder. Let them be put down about two inches below the surface, and see that the earth be properly closed upon them to prevent mice or crows from injuring the seed. In some places it is customary to sow acorns after the plough in furrows, but where the ground happens to be stiff, great care should be taken not to cover the seed with too thick a furrow.

"The first year after planting the acorns, the weeds must be kept down by hoeing and hand-weeding, and this must be done early in the spring before the weeds get so strong as to hide the tender plants, which would occasion many of them to be destroyed in cleaning. It is also the cheapest as well as neatest husbandry to take weeds down, before they grow too large; for though the ground may require an additional hoeing in spring, yet the weeds being hoed down when young, a man may hoe over a great quantity of ground in a day. Weeds cut in their tender state immediately die. Whereas, when they are old and strong, they frequently grow again, especially if rain falls soon after, they perfect their seeds in a short time, and thereby injure the whole plantation.

"The second year of their growth the common plough may be made use of, to cultivate and keep the ground clean, [or potatoes might be raised between the rows if proper care be taken not to trample on the plants.—Editors.]

As these acorns sometimes fail, the author proposes a nursery in the same field to supply the deficiencies.

"Having then given directions for the raising of wood, I proceed," says the author, "to their future management. And first, the rows being four feet asunder, and the plants two feet apart in the rows, they may stand in this manner for twelve or fourteen years, when every second plant may be taken out and sold for hoops or poles. After every second plant is taken away, let the roots of those taken away be grubbed up to give the remaining plants more room freely to extend their roots. The plants being now four feet apart each way, they will require no more thinning for seven or eight years, that is, till they are twenty years old, when the healthiest and most thriving trees must be marked to stand for timber, and the others cut down for poles, and their roots left to produce future underwood.

"The oak will grow and thrive on almost any soil, if properly planted, though it cannot be supposed that their success will be equal in all places. A rich, deep, loamy soil is what oaks most delight in, though they will grow exceedingly well in clays of all kinds, and in *sandy soils*, in which last, the *finest grained timber is produced*."

The author then proceeds to inquire, which of the different modes of raising oaks produces the best timber, from the acorn, the seed-bed, or the nursery. Mr. Evelyn decides in favor *of planting the acorn*, and Mr. Hunter adds, that whoever will look at the woods which were *sown*, and compare them with those which were *planted from nurseries*, will not hesitate a moment to declare in favor of Evelyn's opinion.

What are the obstacles to our following this excellent example of the great farmers of England, in the age in which our ancestors emigrated? Is it because we are too impatient, and unwilling to await so tardy a return? Yet there are constant pleasures in the annual growth of our forests; they seem to be the work of our own hands, at least of our own providence and care; they are subject to fewer hazards, and their profit is certainly greater than that of any other employment of capital on land, or is this aversion to planting the effect of an hereditary prejudice against trees? Our ancestors found *their extirpation*, their *greatest labor*, and do we continue to feel their prejudice, when woodland is far the most valuable, and must constantly increase in its comparative value?

From the Providence Gazette.

Messrs. Editors—Observing in your useful paper an account of the manner of preserving peach trees from the fly in Virginia, by the application of tobacco, I am induced to send you the following, being the result of twenty years experience.

The fly makes its appearance here the first of April, resembles a wasp in size and shape, and is of a pale blue color. The whole process of the fly and worm is accurately described in the Virginia account. My remedy is to hill up the dirt from around the trees, to the height of 12 or 15 inches, and about 18 or 20 in diameter, pressing it close, to prevent its being removed by heavy rains. I removed the dirt about the 1st of August. If not removed until November, no injury will result to the trees; any substance impervious to the fly will answer the purpose as well as tobacco or dirt. OLD WARWICK.

From the Dartmouth (N. H.) Herald.

KEEPING HORSES.

Every gentleman, who is obliged by his health or his business to keep a horse, complains of the enormous expense incurred by it. If allowed to eat and waste as much as he chooses, a horse will consume from four to five tons of hay in a year, besides the necessary grain. But it is asserted from actual experiment, that ten pounds of good hay, with two quarts of corn a day, are enough to keep a common horse in fine order. Ten pounds of hay a day are 3650 pounds, little more than a ton and a half a year—and two quarts of corn per day are about twenty three bushels a year. Call hay seven dollars a ton and corn four shillings a bushel, and you make the annual expense of feeding a horse twenty six or seven dollars, about half as much as it commonly costs.

To keep a horse in the cheapest and healthiest manner, let him stand on green turf, dug up pretty thick, and placed on the floor of his stable—let him be carefully and faithfully curried every day. This is of more importance than is sometimes imagined. It opens the pores and preserves a healthful state of the skin, on which, in horses as in men, depends, as much as on almost any thing else, the proper and healthy operation of the various animal functions.

Although the inferior animals are not, like men, subject to unnatural appetites on account of unnatural stimulants received into the stomach, they unquestionably often consume more food than is necessary to maintain their vigor and spirit. This surplus it is economy to ascertain and retrench.

Corn is cheaper than oats for horses, because there is more heart in a quantity of the same price. It is better to be given two or three times a day in small messes—and to be given dry that the mastication of it may keep the mouth in a healthy state.

To measure hay the tare of a basket may be taken, and the hay given from it in small quantities through the day, but chiefly at night.

A horse that is not used should be fed with corn but sparingly. It should be occasionally salted.

It is not perhaps generally considered, that horses are subject to colds and fevers as really as men. They should therefore be used with great tenderness and delicacy, and often washed in cold water. The pulse generally indicates the health of a horse. It may be felt about an inch back of the eye, and in health beats about 35 strokes in a minute.

The great secret in making horses look well and do well is attention to them. Men who are above looking to their horses, will seldom ride good ones.

In using horses it is better to drive briskly and stop often than to drive even slowly by long stages.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1823.

Farmer's and Gardener's Remembrancer.

JULY.

Harvest.—Much has been said and written on the proper time to harvest wheat. It is now generally agreed that it is better to cut wheat rather before it is ripe, and not wait till the whole becomes uniformly yellow. A writer in the Memoirs of the Board of Agriculture of the State of New York, observes that "a great deal of waste attends wheat, when it is permitted to become ripe before it is cut; in cutting, binding, pitching, loading, and carrying home, some will shell out; and it is a very common thing a fortnight after harvest, to see a field as thickly covered with young plants as if it had been sown over again; in this manner a couple of bushels to the acre are lost, without taking into the account that which has not sprouted. By cradling it a little before it is ripe, if the grain is not quite as plump, which generally it would be, at least it is compensated by saving that part of it which would have been wasted: it is got in in much cleaner condition, and the straw is in a better situation either for fodder or other purposes. It should be left as it is cradled twenty-four or forty-eight hours, according to the weather, as being more exposed to the sun and air, it will cure more perfectly than if immediately put into sheaves. This is very essential to be observed, for when put by in a damp situation, mouldiness is sure to take place, and it is diminished in value both for sale and for use."

Some recommend to make the bands for wheat in the morning early, while the dew renders the straw pliable, which may be well when the grain has been suffered to stand till it has become very ripe. It may likewise be well to bind your sheaves, when the straw is brittle, towards evening, as a small degree of moisture will not only make the straw tougher, but in some degree prevent the shelling of the grain.

When wheat or rye is blasted or mildewed it should be cut immediately, though still in the milk. It may lie on the ground till the straw is sufficiently dried, and the grain is in some degree hardened. But care should be taken that it be spread thin. Dr. Deane observed that "the heads should lie so as not to touch the ground; which may be easily done if the reapers will only take care to lay the top end of each handful on the lower end of the preceding one."

Rye may be reaped as soon as the straw is all turned, except at the joints, and immediately below the ear has become so dry that no sap can be forced out by twisting it; and the kernel has become so hard that you cannot well break or mash it between your thumb and finger.

"Wheat and other grain that is lodged, may, and ought to be cut the earlier; for after the straw is broken or corrupted, it conveys no nourishment to the grain, or as bad as none.

"The ancients reaped their corn, as Pliny says, before it was fully ripe. And it is certain that great inconveniences arise from letting some sorts of grain stand till they come to their utmost maturity. The chaff and straw are the worse for fodder. And if such corn chance to take wet in harvesting it suffers more for being very ripe. But grain cut in a greener state will bear a good deal of wet without damage."* But if wheat be intended for seed (as we shall show hereafter) it should not be cut till quite ripe.

Look to your Gardens, Nurseries, Orchards, &c.—We are not a little apprehensive that in consequence of the hurry of hay time and harvest your garden, orchard, &c. have not commanded a sufficient share of your attention. In order to destroy wasps, ants, &c. you should hang up, or place glass phials, filled with honey or sugar water in such parts of your premises as are most exposed and most liable to their depredations. But these contrivances for destroying insects should be made use of before the fruit begins to ripen, otherwise the plunderers will prefer the fruit to your bait, and shun the road to their ruin. Hoe the ground about your fruit trees, flowering shrubs, &c. of all descriptions, that the weeds may not rob them of the nutriment which they would otherwise derive from the earth. Cut off all suckers and sprouts which spring from the roots of the trees. "Pick off all punctured and decaying fruits, and give them to hogs; also such as have fallen in that state from the trees; for the worms that are in these fruits, which have been the cause of their decline, will soon arrive at their fly or winged state, and attack the remaining fruit."† Or where it can be done without injury to any crop it would be of use to turn pigs into an orchard, to eat the fallen and decayed fruit, and thus destroy the insects contained in such fruit. If any of the branches of any species of fruit tree appear to be overloaded with fruit, they should be not only propped up, so as to prevent their being broken down, but it will often be found advisable to pick off by hand a part of the fruit, in order to give more room for the remainder. This process is more particularly necessary for peach and nectarine trees, in favorable seasons, but sometimes will be serviceable for apple trees, especially such as are young. Some people will consider this a very disagreeable task, both on account of casting away so much fruit, which they might think would do very well, and also on account of the time spent in performing the work; but this is a mistake, as the loss in number will be more than repaid by the size, flavor, and excellence of the remaining part; and besides, the trees will be preserved in health and vigor for the production of future crops."‡

When trees are suffered to bear a superabundant crop, the extraordinary efforts made to support their too numerous offspring, often so exhaust them as to bring on diseases of which they frequently do not recover for at least two or three years; and sometimes always remain weakly and stunted.

Collecting Seeds.—Great improvements may be made by selecting seeds from the earliest, most vigorous and thrifty plants. Even wheat for seed has been picked from the field by such single heads as were most forward, vigorous, large, and filled with the most plump and sound berry; and in that way a gradual improvement of the kind may be introduced. If we were about to purchase garden seeds, we should wish to be informed in what neighborhood, or fraternity of other vegetables they grew. Different sorts of plants of the same or a similar species, impart to each other their respective qualities. Thus if the genuine ruta baga grew near the common turnip, or turnip cabbage, the seeds of the former will have in part the peculiarities of the latter, and *vice versa*. If a mangel wurtzel root, intended for seed, has grown near a plant of the common kind of beet which has likewise gone to seed, the seeds of each plant will partake in some degree of the qualities of the other. You should never save seeds from such water-melons, musk-melons, squashes, cucumbers, pumpkins, gourds, &c. as have grown near each other, unless in your crop from such seeds you would like to have melons which have somewhat of the flavor of squashes, cucumbers which taste a little like pumpkins, and pumpkins not much sweeter than gourds. There can be no cross between a *cabbage and a carrot;* but there can be between a cabbage and a turnip; between a cabbage and a cauliflower nothing is more common, and the different kinds of cabbages will produce crosses presenting twenty, and perhaps a thousand degrees, from the Early York to the Savoy. Turnips will mix with radishes and ruta baga; all these with rape; the result will mix with cabbages and cauliflowers; so that if nothing were done to preserve plants true to their kind, our gardens would soon present us with little besides mere herbage. To save the seed of two sorts of any tribe, in the same garden in the same year ought not to be attempted; and this it is that makes it difficult for any one man to raise all sorts of seeds good and true.*

Seeds should stand till quite ripe, should then be gathered when dry. If when threshed or shelled any moisture remains attached to them they should be dried in the sun, or near a fire. They are best kept in a room where there is occasionally at least, a fire in the winter. They are most securely kept in the pods or on the stalks, but this is sometimes inconvenient and often impracticable, unless it be for such as are very valuable, very curious, and lie in a small compass. Mr. Cobbett says that great care is necessary to avoid the use of unripe seed.—"Even in hot weather, when the seed would drop out, if the plants were left standing, pull, or cut the plants, and lay them on a cloth in the sun, till the seed be all ready to fall out; for, if forced from the pod, the seed is never so good. Seeds will *grow* if gathered when they are green as grass, and afterwards dried in the sun; but they do not produce plants like those coming from *ripe seed*. I tried some years ago, fifty grains of wheat, gathered green,

* Georgical Dictionary.
† M'Mahon. ‡ Ibid.

* American Gardener.

against fifty gathered ripe. Not only were the *plants* of the former feeble, when compared with the latter; not only was the produce of the former two thirds less than the latter; but even the quality of the grain was not half so good. Many of the ears had *smut*, which was not the case with those that came from the ripened seed, though the land and the cultivation were, in both cases, the same.* Other writers advise not to reap wheat infected with smut till fully ripe, and perfectly dry, and according to Mr. C. wheat intended for seed should in all cases be allowed to become quite ripe before it is reaped.

A writer whose observations are quoted with approbation in the "Complete Farmer," an English work of authority, says "I never thresh the sheaves which are to supply me with seed till just when I want to make use of it. I have a notion that the seed keeps better in the covering nature has given it, I mean the chaff, than it would do without it; and I am pretty certain it sprouts sooner in the ground, the husk or bran being preserved in a tenderer and more yielding state than it would be were it exposed to the open air." If new seed is to be preferred to old, (which we believe to be the correct doctrine on this subject) wheat, rye, &c. may easily be kept in the sheaf, or at least in the chaff, and have no doubt but this will be found the most beneficial mode of preserving it.

Weeds made useful.—There are some vegetable productions, which we denominate weeds, such as purslane, pigweed, brakes, &c. which make good food for swine, and should be gathered and given to them whether they are kept in pastures or pens. Even when pigs are suffered to run in highways, (a practice by no means to be justified, but sometimes tolerated) it is best to give them every green thing which they will devour. The suckers of corn they will receive with thanks expressed in their dialect. But if weeds have so far arrived to maturity that their seeds would grow if they had a chance, you will do best to burn them with fire or quick lime, or to bury them in a compost heap, where they will be apt to lose their germinating principle by fermentation. Sometimes it will be found expedient to bury them near the spots where they grow, between the rows of your cabbages, corn, &c. and they will furnish food for growing crops, or enrich the soil for the benefit of your future husbandry. Every thing which has grown, even if it be a thistle, a brier, or any thing else noxious or cumbersome, may serve as food for some useful product of the earth. The only question is whether it will cost more to save it for manure than it will be worth when saved. But it should be a general rule to let no vegetable nor animal substance wither or putrefy above ground. Bury your weeds then as you sever them from the soil by hoeing if convenient, and if even a mouse dies on your premises, honor his remains with at least one shovel full of earth; and thus enrich your soil, and save the atmosphere from unwholesome effluvia. When you have dug potatoes for family use, bury the tops under earth enough to absorb the products which arise during their decomposition, and make some allowance for some part of the soil's being washed away by the next shower. And when the vines of your peas, beans, squashes, water melons, &c. &c. have done bearing, please not to leave them cumbering your premises, rotting above ground, nor harboring insects, but bury them in your compost bed, your barn yard, or dig trenches where they grew in which they may be deposited, and let them manure the earth instead of the atmosphere.

Gather Herbs for Drying, Distilling, &c.—Herbs, such as mint, balm, penny-royal, sweet marjoram, hyssop, sage, spear-mint, peppermint, tansy, wormwood, lavender, marygold, camomile, &c. should be gathered about this time in order for distilling, and for family use. They should be cut in a dry day, when they are in the highest perfection, nearly of full growth and in full bloom, and spread to dry in a shady place. When sufficiently dried they may be put up in paper bags ready for use.

* American Gardener.

We think ourselves greatly honored by the following official testimony in favor of the manner in which the New England Farmer has been conducted; and our highest ambition will be to continue to deserve the approbation of a body so competent to appreciate the value of our unremitted efforts to merit encouragement from the agricultural part of the community. We are not only pleased with, but *proud of*, our present employment, and when adequate judges inform us that our labors are "highly useful to the farming interest," we receive a reward, which is more grateful to us than would be the "boast of heraldry, the pomp of power," or all that wealth can bestow. We are fully of opinion with Mr. Lowell, (as expressed in the editorial remarks of the last No. of the Massachusetts Agricultural Journal) that agriculture is not only "*one* of the most but indeed *the most important* branch of human industry." If, then, we can promote the interests of agriculture by our humble efforts, we cannot aspire to any higher honor, and our ambition cannot form a wish which will not be completely gratified.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for promoting Agriculture, held July 12, 1823—

Voted, That in the opinion of this Board, the weekly paper entitled the "New England Farmer," from the able manner in which it is conducted, is calculated to be highly useful to the farming interest, and deserving of more extensive patronage than it has hitherto received; we therefore cheerfully offer this expression of the approbation of the Board, and of a hope that there will be found a willingness in the public to increase the subscription so far as to enable the publisher to continue his paper, and thus secure permanently to farmers, this valuable vehicle of agricultural information, which we think the best of the kind with which we are acquainted.

A copy from the record,
BENJ. GUILD, *Assistant Rec. Sec.*

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE.

The observations of Mr. McKean, in the article which commences this day's paper, cannot fail to suggest important ideas to every person, who is concerned or feels an interest in the pursuits of agriculture. We have attempted to procure information relative to a plant which we have been in the habit of considering to be little better than the most worthless weed that annoys the cultivator. The result of our inquiries is that the Jerusalem Artichoke is called by botanists *Helianthus Tuberosus*, and is of the same genus with the Sunflower. Dr. Darwin informs us, (Phytologia, sec. xvi,) that "horses are fond of the leaves, and swine of the roots, both of which are produced in great quantity; and as the latter contain much sugar, they must be nutritive; and in respect to their culinary use are remarkably grateful to most palates, as well as nutritive, when cut into slices, and baked in beef or mutton pies; but are said to be flatulent in the bowels of those whose digestion is not very powerful; a property, which might be worth attention, where the propensity to fermentation is required, as in making bread with potatoes, or in the distillery."

A writer for the Bath Society Papers, vol. iv, page 278, with the signature N. Bartley, says, "At a considerable expense and trouble, I procured of these roots sufficient to plant half an acre of ground; but I have them now in great plenty; I find the produce to be about four hundred and eighty Winchester bushels to the acre; and I think they are about equal in value to potatoes for feeding store pigs, such as are not less than five or six months old. For fatting hogs I do not find they are near so valuable as potatoes. But their chief recommendations are the certainty of the crop, that they flourish in almost any soil, and do not require any manure, at least for such a produce as I have stated.—They are proof against the severest frost, and may be taken out of the ground as occasion may serve; whereas potatoes are soon affected with frost, and must therefore be secured before winter sets in. I generally plant three or four acres in a season."

The writer planted his artichokes, in England, in the beginning of March, in drills three feet and an half asunder, and the sets or cutings nine inches apart in the rows.

The Farmer's Assistant recommends boiling these roots for feeding swine, and says they will grow well in almost any dry soil, even if it be poor. When cut and ground in a cider mill, they make good food for horses, with the addition of a little salt. Mr. Legaux, of Springmill, Pennsylvania, raises this root from Dutch seed, and has them eight or nine inches in diameter. He says they are easily kept through winter in the ground, nothing being requisite further than to dig a trench round them to prevent the water from injuring them.

We have conversed with practical farmers on the subject of cultivating the artichoke, and have always found them opposed to it, principally on account of the difficulty of clearing the ground of this root. They say that there is no

weed so difficult to subdue, and if it once gets possession of a piece of ground it maintains its monopoly in defence of all ordinary methods of extirpation. But if the industry of hogs is all that is wanted, as Mr. McKean informs us, there is nothing to be apprehended on that score. If it will "grow to some perfection in woodlands," and on a soil which would produce little or nothing else of value, it might render millions of acres in the United States productive, which now are nearly or quite useless. It would cost nothing for seed after the first year, and afford a considerable product, with no labor, except that of gathering it. It is, moreover, a species of the Helianthus, or Sunflower, which we are told produces, by the perspiration of its leaves, much greater quantities of oxygene gas, or vital air, than any other vegetable. It may thus promote health as well as furnish subsistence. Perhaps, too, its leaves and stalks may be worth something as ingredients in compost beds, or to strew over the farmers' yard in the autumn.

FOREIGN.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

☞ By an arrival at New York, from Liverpool, London papers have been received to the 2d, and Liverpool papers to the 3d of June. Paris dates were received by the same arrival to the 30th of May.

By these it should seem that Madrid was occupied by the French on the 23d of May, and a regency was established on the day following. Count Abisbal, the Constitutional General of the army of Madrid, has revolted to the enemy. That officer, in a letter to the French commander, stated that he is of opinion that the majority of the nation is not solicitous to continue the constitution of the year 1812. He advises the King to dismiss his ministers and appoint others who are wedded to no party, and who would deserve the confidence of all Spaniards, as well as of all Foreign Powers.

The London Courier of the 28th May says, "We are assured that Ministers consider the intelligence they yesterday received from Spain, as decisive with regard to the war. The proceeding of Count Abisbal must lead to such arrangements as will speedily put an end to hostilities. He despatched copies of his answer to Montijo, to Mina, Ballasteros, and Morillo, and it was not doubted they would act in concert with him. Abisbal's army did not exceed four thousand men, and he prudently marched them from Madrid, fearful of the consequences that would likely ensue, had they remained in the capital when the French troops entered it."

The London Sun of the 31st May states that negotiations between France and the new Spanish Ministers are now in progress, and that the whole has been arranged with the full knowledge and sanction of the British government. Many of the Cortes have absented themselves with the understanding that they are not to be molested when the new order of affairs is established. Austria has assembled no army, and together with Prussia and Russia has resolved to adopt a policy entirely neutral. The terms offered by France to Spain, they say, are such as will be satisfactory to Europe in general.

There is a great deal more of *guess work* in these papers not worth republishing. All we can learn is that the Spaniards are about to submit to such an order of things as their dictators think proper to prescribe.

The Greeks.—It is said that arrangements have been effected, through the British Minister at Constantinople, by which Greece is to be declared free, on condition of paying to the Porte annual tribute equal to the revenue which the Porte formerly derived from Greece.

Ireland.—The last accounts from that unhappy country represent the state of society as worse than the savage. Anarchy, pillage and murder are predominant throughout the kingdom, and law and social order have ceased to control the passions, or regulate the conduct of the great mass of the population.

Progress of Revolution in South America.—The province of Guadalaxara, in Mexico, has declared itself free and independent of the other provinces of America, in a proclamation of 22 articles. She will hold no relations, except exterior ones, with the other provinces, and recognise nothing which the deputies in the present Congress may do contrary to this. It is proposed to establish a perpetual Congress at Queretaro, to raise an army, build a navy, &c.

The New York American says, "We learn on the authority of a Colombian gentleman in high official station, now in this city, that the Congress of that Republic, considering its own independence as firmly established, has authorized Gen. Bolivar to proceed with 4000 men to the aid of the Peruvian government, in addition to 4000 troops previously allotted to that service."

DOMESTIC.

Bunker Hill Monument Association.—At the late session of the Legislature of Massachusetts an act was passed to incorporate a company with this title. An Address setting forth the objects of this association has been prepared, and has the highly respectable signatures of Daniel Webster, William Sullivan, H. A. S. Dearborn, Wm. Tudor, Richard Sullivan, Samuel D. Harris, F. C. Gray, Samuel Swett, and Geo. Ticknor. The object of this association, as stated in this address, "is to cause to be erected a MONUMENT, which shall be consecrated to the great leading characters and events, both civil and military, of the American Revolution, up to the 17th of June, 1775, to bear appropriate descriptions, names and dates." It is added that "as soon as arrangements can be concerted, appeals will be made through committees to individuals. All will have an opportunity of contributing as their ability or inclination may prompt. The smallest donations will be gladly received, and the humblest citizen may have an opportunity of saying that he has contributed something to testify his respect for the labors and sufferings of his ancestors. An exact account of all subscriptions will be kept, those of each town entered separately, and the name of each donor recorded in a permanent volume, to be deposited and preserved in the monument."

Robbery of the Mail.—On the morning of the 7th inst. about 2 o'clock, the mail stage from Philadelphia to Baltimore, was robbed about 16 miles from the last mentioned city. A rail fence had been thrown across the road by the robbers, which stopped the stage.—Three men advanced, at whom the guard discharged his blunderbuss and two pistols. Although some of the shot took effect, the robbers knocked down the guard, and compelled the driver to flight. The guard was held in duresse by one of the robbers, while the others rifled the mail, and the whole retreated. The alarm having been given by the driver, a party proceeded to the place where the crime was perpetrated, a shirt was found, which it was ascertained belonged to one of the laborers who worked at a forge in the vicinity, and it was found that the robbers were workmen, whose names were Ward, Emmenheiser, and Moore. The latter confessed the crime, and they were all committed for trial.

Windows.—The Baltimore Morning Chronicle, in noticing the recent death of a child by a window sash falling on its neck, has some remarks respecting the manner of their construction, which it considers unsafe, and recommends windows to open like folding doors, as preferable both for ornament and safety. This improved mode of making windows, we are informed, has been adopted in many of the large cities of Europe, and travellers who have returned from their tours in that country are so convinced of the superiority of construction in the manner of folding doors that they are surprised not to find them adopted in this country, where the useful arts are in such a high state of improvement.

The constituents of Mr. McDuffie, of South Carolina, have recently given him a dinner, at which he made a long speech.

AGRICULTURAL PREMIUM, FOR THE BEST MANAGED FARM.

AT a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for promoting Agriculture, held at the President's, 12th July, 1823, it was

VOTED, That this Society will grant as a premium *to the owner of the best cultivated Farm within the precincts of the several Agricultural Societies of the State*, the sum of Thirty Dollars each, in addition to the premium which may have been awarded the claimant by the local Society; and that it will accept, as full evidence of the merit of the claimant, a certificate signed by the President of the local Society, certifying that such person was declared by the Society or their Trustees, entitled to the premium within that district;—that the applicant shall, however, in all cases, be held to exhibit to this Society, a statement of the extent of his farm; the state and plan of his farming buildings; his mode of collecting and managing manure; the number of domestic animals usually supported thereon; the quantity and quality of land under cultivation, and his usual mode of culture, as well as the average amount of his crops, of all sorts.

A copy from the record,
BENJ. GUILD, *Assistant Rec'g Sec'y.*
July 18, 1823.

☞JOB PRINTING neatly executed at the Farmer Office, on reasonable terms.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE, &c.

[Revised and corrected every Friday.]

			FROM		TO	
			D.	C.	D.	C.
ASHES, pot, 1st qual.		ton.	140	00	143	00
pearl do.			150	00	153	00
BEANS, white,		bush	1	00	1	10
BEEF, mess, 200 cwt.		bbl.	9	00	9	50
cargo, No 1,			8	00	8	50
" No 2,			6	75	7	00
BUTTER, inspect. 1st qual.		lb.		11		12
" 2d qual.				9		10
small kegs, family,				12		14
CHEESE, new milk				7		8
FLAX				8		9
FLAX SEED		bush		85		90
FLOUR, Baltimore, superfine,		bbl.	7	75	8	00
Genessee			7	75	8	00
Rye, best			4	50	4	75
GRAIN, Rye		bush		70		73
Corn				58		60
Barley				68		70
Oats				40		42
HOGS' LARD, 1st sort		lb.		9		10
HOPS, No 1,				8		12
LIME,		cask	1	25	1	37
OIL, Linseed, American		gal.		65		00
PLAISTER PARIS		ton.	2	75	3	00
PORK, Navy Mess		bbl.	12	00	12	50
Bone Middlings			14	00	14	50
Cargo, No 1,			12	00	12	50
Cargo, No 2,			11	00	11	50
SEEDS, Herd's Grass		bush	2	00	2	25
Clover		lb.		8		9
WOOL, Merino, full blood,	washed			55		60
do do	unwashed			46		50
do 3-4	washed			50		55
do 1-2	do			45		47
Native	do			37		40
Pulled, Lamb's, 1st sort				55		60
do Spinning, 1st sort				50		55

PROVISION MARKET.

BEEF, best pieces		lb.		8		10
PORK, fresh				7		8
VEAL,				6		8
LAMB, per quarter				30		45
POULTRY,				10		12
BUTTER, keg & tub				13		14
lump, best				18		20
EGGS,		doz.		14		15
MEAL, Rye,		bush		75		80
Indian,				75		
POTATOES,				45		47
CIDER, liquor,		bbl.	1	50	2	25
HAY, best,		ton.	18	00	22	00

THE HAPPY MAN.—*Translated from Horace.*

Happy the man, who free from care,
Manures his own paternal fields,
Content, as his wise fathers were,
T' enjoy the crop his labor yields.

Nor usury torments his breast,
That barters happiness for gain,
Nor war's alarms disturb his rest,
Nor hazards of the faithless main :

Nor at the ever wrangling bar,
With costly noise and dear debate,
Proclaims an everlasting war,
Nor fawns on bad men basely great.

But for the vine selects a spouse,
Chaste emblem of the marriage bed,
Or prunes the too luxuriant boughs,
And grafts more fruitful in their stead :

Or views the lowing herds, that share
The produce of his fertile plains,
And ponders with delightful care,
The prospect of his future gains :

Or shears his sheep which round him graze,
And droop beneath their curling loads,
Or plunders his laborious bees
Of balmy nectar, meet for gods.

When autumn comes to crown the year,
And bending boughs reward his pains,
Joyous he plucks the luscious pear,
The purple grape his finger stains.

Each honest heart's a welcome guest,
With tempting fruits his table glows,
And still the Almighty Donor's blest,
For what his Providence bestows.

LIGHTNING RODS.

The first object of the rod (says Dr. Franklin) is to prevent a discharge of electricity from the cloud—to effect this object, the rod should be well elevated, and terminate in a slim sharp point. Dr. Franklin's experiments as well as others, prove that the power of the pointed rod extends quite to the clouds, and takes from them a vast quantity of the fluid before they arrive within the striking distance. From the rod which he erected on his own house, he led a small wire into one of the rooms in the house; on the end of the wire was fixed a small bell, and at six or eight inches distance from the bell was placed another; from this bell a wire was led into the cellar and fixed to the pump rod; between the two bells, a brass ball was suspended by a silk thread; when a thunder cloud appeared over the house, the bells would be electrified, and the brass ball would be attracted and repelled alternately, and play quickly between the bells, and keep up a continual ringing till the cloud had passed over the house. At one time he was awakened by an unusual noise—he immediately sprang out of bed to ascertain the cause; and on opening the door he perceived the quantity of fluid that was passing down was unusually great; the brass ball was removed at a distance from the bells, and an uninterrupted column of fluid was passing from one bell to the other. This circumstance is sufficient to prove that the pointed rod will prevent, or at least, lessen the discharge from the clouds; a dull or blunt point will have little or no effect; therefore, pains ought to be taken to have it in its proper shape.

The second object of the rod is to receive and conduct the electrical fluid into the earth, when the point is insufficient to prevent a discharge from the cloud; to effect this object, the conducting power of the rod should be made as great as possible, by having the rod communicate with some conducting substance, such as water, or very moist earth. Franklin says, the rod should be settled, at least, six feet below the surface of the ground. Some have recommended putting a large quantity of charcoal at the bottom of the rod, and have it extend some distance from it; this may have a good effect, for charcoal is a perfect conductor of electricity. The conductor ought to be three fourths of an inch in diameter; rods of iron but little smaller than this have been known to be completely dissipated at one stroke of lightning.—The rod ought to pass in the most direct course possible, for the conducting power of a rod or wire is always weakened by increasing its length, and the fluid will follow a short conductor in preference to a long one, in all cases. It ought to be supported by wood, and not suffered to come in contact with any metallic substance, such as staples, or nails of iron, brass or any other metal.—*Providence Journal.*

There is *sense* in the following extract at least; whether it be common sense or not, we will not pretend to decide:

SENSE.—There are a great many graduations of wisdom among people—there is good sense, great sense, and fine and high sense, besides no sense and little sense; but the best kind of sense in my estimation, is that which is vulgarly denominated *common sense.* Your good sense is always running away with itself; your great sense is sure to have mischief at the bottom of it; your fine sense makes broken hearts; your high sense broken heads; your no sense goes blundering to the devil often, and your little sense is not much better—but common sense fills a man's purse with dollars, his cellar with beef and pork, and his peaceful fire-side with a good wife and good children. Common sense is best.

From the Nantucket Inquirer.

"SHEARING."

The annual *Shearing* took place on Monday and Tuesday last. Our distant readers may possibly smile at this annunciation of an event apparently so unimportant. But when we assure them that this is almost the only jubilee which we islanders allow ourselves to celebrate in any sort of *style*, they may offset this account against the innumerable details of *Election festivals*, *Fourth-of-July parades*, *Tammany dinners*, *Christmas treats*, *Linnean coronations*, *Krout feasts*, and *Horse Races*, at which we are ever and anon compelled to expand our opticks and smack our lips in envious wonderment.

There are about 10,000 Sheep kept on this island, which it had hitherto been customary to shear in two separate flocks, east and west of the town. The sheep owners the present year, however, resolved on a general shearing; and for this purpose an area of 300 acres was inclosed, about three miles south of the town, into which the sheep, collected from all quarters of the island, were driven. In the centre of this field, a large circular pen was formed, bordered on its exterior by the private pens of each sheep owner, where the sheep were severally shorn.

Whatever may be the opinions of our transmarine readers, the vast flock thus concentrated, together with the multitude employed in shearing, and gathered to witness the operation, presented no contemptible spectacle. If the exhibition was not in itself calculated, equally with any *military display*, to inspire ideas of *national independence*, it at least imbued the beholder with some notion of *domestic comfort*, and carried his mind back to the sylvan simplicity of the patriarchal ages.

On the spot a number of large tents were erected, through which the voice of festivity resounded. We have not been furnished with any formal *order* of the rites therein performed, but the following may be *imagined* to have been among the "toasts drank on the occasion."

The festival we celebrate—May our political and ecclesiastical shepherds be as careful not to *shear too close.*

Commerce—The *golden fleece* of the nation.

Agriculture and Manufactures—May they flourish *by hook or by crook.*

National Independence—May it prosper more by industry than gunpowder.

Our Legislators—May their tongues never, like *lamb's tails*, wag, wag, wag.

The Krout Club—Cabbage heads and Mutton heads; may a sufficiency of *pluck* attend both.

The Fair Sex—When our *beaux* cast *sheep's eyes* towards them, may they become *warm as wool.*

FORTY YEARS AGO—

Literature meant learning, and was supported by common sense. Refined nonsense had no advocates, and was pretty generally kicked out of doors.

Forty years ago—men of property could labor, and wear homespun to church. Women could spin and weave, make butter and cheese, whose husbands were worth thousands.

Forty years ago—there were but few merchants in the country—few insolvent debtors, and very rarely imprisoned for debt.

Forty years ago—the young ladies of the first respectability learned music, but it was the humming of the wheel, and learned the necessary steps of dancing in following it. Their forte piano was a loom, their parasol was a broom, and their novels the bible.

Forty years ago—the young gentlemen hoed corn, chopped wood at the door, and went to school in the winter to learn reading, writing and arithmetic.

Forty years ago—there was no such thing as balls in the summer, and but few in the winter, except snow balls: and

Forty years ago—if a mechanic promised to do your work, you might depend on his word; the thing would be done.

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